

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION FOR:

METHOD AND ARTICLE FOR DECORATING MODEL RACING CARS

INVENTOR:

Dwayne C. Fulton

Attorney Docket No.: 506558-0043

Certificate of Mailing by "Express Mail" (37 C.F.R. 1.10)

Express Mail Label No.: EV 136939185 US

Date of Deposit: February 2, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Lara Gintley

Signature: Lara Gintley

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4409.

METHOD AND ARTICLE FOR DECORATING MODEL RACING CARS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED
RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] This invention relates to model racing cars of the type that are especially popular with use for racing in a Pinecar® Derby.

[0004] These cars are usually hand painted and, in some cases, decorated with decals. The deficiencies of the present decorating techniques include inconsistency, almost complete dependence upon the skill of an individual (which varies considerably especially at young ages), and a limited number of relatively simple designs which can be accomplished.

[0005] 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention addresses the problems of decorating model racing cars according to the prior art by providing a method and article for decorating which provides greater consistency, is less dependent upon the skill of an individual, and increases the number of possible designs which can be used.

[0010] 2. DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

[0011] It is known to hand paint designs onto model racing cars. It is also known to apply decals at selected locations to enhance the appearance of a model racing car.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] The present invention provides a method and article for decorating a model racing car where a sheet holding a transferable design covers substantially the full body of the car and is then trimmed to the exact size and shape desired.

[0013] Another important aim of the invention is to provide a method and article for decorating a model racing car wherein a sheet holding a transferable design covers substantially the entire body of the car and does not have to be of a repetitive pattern.

[0014] It is therefore an objective of the present invention to provide an improved method and article for decorating a model racing car which will provide the car with a more professional appearance than can be achieved by hand painting.

[0015] It is also an aim of this invention to provide a method and article for decorating a model racing car which can employ more complicated designs than would be possible with hand painting.

[0016] Another object of the invention is to provide a method and article for decorating a model racing car which provides for a greater variety of designs than is practical using hand painting techniques.

[0017] Another very important object of this invention is to provide a method and article for decorating a model racing car which allows participants in organized derby racing who are less artistic to compete with those participants who are more artistically talented.

[0018] A particular advantage of the invention is that nonrepetitive or random patterns can be applied to decorate the car rather than being limited to repetitive patterns. Repetitive patterns may also be utilized but are not preferred.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] Other objects of the invention will be made clear and become apparent from the following descriptions and claims when read in light of the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0020] FIG.1 is a perspective view of a model racing car block for use in the method of the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the article which is employed in the method of the invention to achieve full body decoration with two layers of the laminate pulled partially away;

[0022] FIG. 3 is a greatly enlarged cross sectional view of the article shown in Fig. 3 with one layer pulled partially away from the other two layers.

[0023] FIGS. 4, 5 and 6 illustrate the method of decorating a model racing car utilizing the article of the present invention; specifically, FIG. 4 shows the transfer sheet applied to the car after the adhesive release sheet has been removed. This figure also shows water being applied to accomplish transfer of the design;

[0024] FIG. 5 is another perspective view showing the protective layer being removed from the design layer; and

[0025] FIG. 6 illustrates the design article on model car being trimmed to the exact size and configuration desired.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0026] Referring initially to FIG. 1, a model racing car body is designated generally by the numeral 10 and is typically formed from a block of wood. The body of the car includes an engine area 12, a roof area 14, a trunk section 16 and side body portions 18, only one of which is visible in FIG. 1. A front windshield area is designated by the numeral 20. Also included are two side window areas 22 (one of which is visible in FIG. 1) and a rear window area 24.

[0027] Referring now to FIG. 2, a transfer sheet holding a printed design for decorating car 10 is designated generally by the numeral 26. Sheet 26 comprises three basic layers. A first release sheet 28, a design carrying layer 30 and a second release sheet 32 formed from a water absorbent material.

[0028] Further details of the construction of sheet 26 are illustrated in the greatly enlarged cross sectional view, FIG. 3. The design carrying printed film 30 includes an underlying layer of pigment and adhesive 30a. The preferred pigment is titanium dioxide so as to present a white appearance. Sufficient pigment is included in the adhesive to result in an opaque background when film 30 is applied to car 10. Alternatively, the opaque background may be provided by a separate pigmented layer. In this case the opaque layer would be adhered to film 30 and adhesive layer 30a would be on the opposite side of the opaque layer from film 30. First release sheet 28 adheres to the pigmented adhesive layer 30a. The second release sheet 32 includes a water soluble adhesive 32a so that it will adhere to the printed film 30.

[0029] The method according to present invention will also describe the use of transfer sheet 26. The first step is to provide the sheet having the components described above. Next, first release sheet 28 is peeled away in the manner illustrated in FIG. 2. As shown in FIG. 4, sheet 26 is of a size to completely cover and extend slightly beyond the perimeter of car body 10. Once the first release sheet 28 has been peeled away, the remainder of the transfer sheet is placed on the car body and generally conformed to the shape of the car as illustrated in FIG. 4. This is done with the adhesive pigmented layer 30a next to the car body. The adhesive used for this layer is nonwatersoluble. The next step is to utilize a sponge 34 to transfer a sufficient amount of water to the top side of sheet 26. The second release sheet 32 is formed from a water

absorptive paper material. The adhesive layer 32a on the back side of release sheet 32 is water soluble and once wet will allow sheet 32 to be pulled away from the film layer 30 in the manner illustrated in FIG. 5. Once sheet 32 is completely removed, a knife 36 is utilized to trim sheet 30 to the exact configuration of car body 10. A windshield simulating overlay 20a is placed over sheet 30 in the area of windshield 20 to simulate a windshield in the completed car.

[0030] The presence of pigmented adhesive layer 30a assures that the image which is printed on film 30 will be well defined and brilliant. While pigments other than titanium dioxide may be employed it is important the pigment provide an opaque background which will enhance the design rather than mask it. This increases the sharpness and brilliance of the design. While the invention has been described with reference to a single sheet being applied to the model car block it is to be understood that in some instances the sheet may be cut into two or more sections before application. For example, the sides may be cut out and applied separately from the remainder of the body to reduce potential wrinkling and make the application process easier. This would not be practical with other than a nonrepetitive design.

[0031] It will also be appreciated that the invention contemplates applying a transfer sheet to a car made of a translucent body in which case the adhesive layer which joins the printed film to the body will be clear and an opaque non-adhesive layer will be formed on the backside of the printed film. In this instance the printed film and opaque background layer are applied to the inside of the translucent body.

[0032] From the foregoing it will be seen that this invention is one well adapted to attain all ends and objectives herein-above set forth, together with the other advantages which are obvious and which are inherent to the invention.

[0033] Since many possible embodiments may be made of the invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is to be understood that all matters herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings are to be interpreted as illustrative, and not in a limiting sense.

[0034] While specific embodiments have been shown and discussed, various modifications may of course be made, and the invention is not limited to the specific forms or arrangement of parts and steps described herein, except insofar as such limitations are included in the following claims. Further, it will be understood that certain features and sub-combinations

are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and sub-combinations.

This is contemplated by and is within the scope of the claims.